MR. K. A. MOHAMED: May I know during which part of the year, watering of roads is done?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: Usually during the hottest part of the year. But in this case, the Municipal lorry went out of order and so there was some difficulty.

MR. K. A. MOHAMED: May I know whether any other arrangements have been made in the matter?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: The lorry is being repaired.

MR. K. A. MOHAMED: Will the Government be prepared to take it from me that no new arrangements have been made so far?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: I will make enquiries with the Chairman of the Municipality.

MR. K. A. MOHAMED: May I know when the Government got the report from the Municipality?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: A few days ago.

MR. K. A. MOHAMED: May I know the exact date?

MR C. P. GOPALA PANICKER I cannot give that now.

MR. K. A. MOHAMED: I came from Quilon only three days back, and may I inform Government that till then no new arrangements had been made for the watering of the roads.

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: I will make a note of that.

Travancoreans in Malaya.

583. ✻MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Travancoreans stranded in Malaya?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: Government have no definite information.

Travancoreans in Malaya.

584. ✻MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI (*Mavelikara cum Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether a large number of Travancoreans including the members of the I. N. A. are stranded in Malaya, Burma and other countries;

(*b*) whether the Government have made any enquiries regarding it and have taken any steps to help them; and

(*c*) whether the Government are in a position to state the number of Travancoreans still undergoing imprisonment or trial in Malaya?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: (*a*) Government have no information.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise in view to answer (*a*).

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know from the member whether Government are aware that before the war, many persons from Travancore had gone to Malaya for earning their bread?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: That has been so for the last one century.

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MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : Having known that, did they, after the cessation of hostilities, enquire about the condition of these people—whether they are returning, whether they have joined the I. N. A. etc?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: Government have not made any such enquiries. They have not left their addresses or any other information. If the information is placed before Government, they will start enquiries.

PRESIDENT : For the satisfaction of the honourable member, I might mention that this Government have addressed the Government of India in the matter. The full contents of the correspondence cannot, as the honourable member knows, be placed before the House now. Government have addressed the Government of India, pointing out that there are large numbers of Travancoreans, who have been employed in Malaya before the war and asking them for the fullest possible information of their present situation and other conditions. If cases of distress come up this Government would be willing to give such help as is necessary.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Recently it was reported in the papers that one Mr. Samael, a Travancorean, committed an act of treason.

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER : No such report has been received by Government.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: But have the Government seen that in the newspapers?

PRESIDENT : But what does the honourable member expect this Government to do?

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: He is a Travancorean and I expect the Government to take action with the Government of India so that something is done to defend him properly. Of course, the Dewan has said something on this point.

PRESIDENT : I suppose the honourable member knows that one Mr. Bhashyam has been sent to Malaya to make enquiries in such matters?

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: The duty of the Travancore Government is to take steps to defend these people.

PRESIDENT: Obviously that cannot be done, because not only Travancoreans but people belonging to Cochin, Mysore and other States have gone to Malaya. All these Governments cannot send their separate lawyers for defending them. But the Government of India have now, in response to various requests, some of which have emanated from Governments, agreed to have Councils set up to examine these cases.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : Then what is the meaning of the reply given by the Secretary to Government?

PRESIDENT : That is because the Secretariat is not aware of these things. These are matters which are conducted confidentially between the head of the administration and the Viceroy.

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